Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

Lieutenant Edward Clifford Howson Crockford

58th Battalion



0840304J

A.I.F. 58th Btn

CROCKFORD
E.C. Lieut.

"D/Wounds"

Died of wounds 61st C.C.S. 11-8-18.
-ert. by Hpl Index.

H

London
9-9-18

58th Battn.
A.I.F.

CROCKFORD
Lt. R.C.

"Died of Wounds 11-8-18"

Re Lt.Crockford. He was admitted suffering from Shell Wounds of the Feet and Legs on 9-8-18. His condition did not improve and he passed away peacefully 8-10 a.m. 11-8-18. He left no message. Burial took place in the local Military Cemetery.

Letter from:- The O.C.,
No. 61 C.C.S.,
19-9-18.

London
3-10-18

M.

A.I.F. 58. CROCKFORD 4-E.C.H.

D/W Aug. 11th 1918. Dets.

On the first day of our attack at Villers Bretonneux I was close to him when he was hit by a piece of shell, one foot appearing to be very badly injured. I saw him fall and the S/Bs removed him at once. The time was towards evening and he was then directing his men right in the front.

Inf: Sgt.G.Mewat. 465.
Billets,
BOULOGNE. 18.10.18. ARD

M.

58th Battn.
A.I.F.

CROCKFORD
Lieut.E.C.H.

"DIED OF WOUNDS - 11-8-18"

I was told by Pte. D. Hole (58th Battn. D.Coy. XIV Pltn.) that he was with Lieut. Crockford (58th Battn.D.Coy) when he was wounded by a shell, while digging a bit of a dug-out behind the lines, in August, at Morlancourt. He was taken to the Battn. D/S. I am sorry I do not know where he was buried. Pte.Hole would give all particulars. The ground was held.

Eye-Witness:- No
Description:- Clean-shaven - young - in France a good while.

Informant - Lubeke.Pte.Eric. 3406
(quite intelligent)
58th Battn.C.Coy.XI Pltn.
3rd Southern Gen.Hosp.
OXFORD.

Written Hole - 4.11.18

Home Address:-
54 Church Street
Geelong
W.Victoria.

H.M.Pickard-Cambridge
12-10-18
London
29-10-18
J.E.A.

M.

58th Battn. A.I.F. Lt. Crockford. E.C.H.

Died of Wounds 11.8.18.

Villers Brettoneux wounded by shell in an attack just after we started from the trenches . I just saw it was him wounded and passed on to the attack. He was a fine fellow, absolutely good.

Informant:- Goulding,
No. 3589.
W. 28.
Harefield.

D.P. Dickson,
London,
30/10/18.
J.E.A.

M.

A.I.F. 58th Battn. Lieut. E.C. Crockford.

"Died of Wounds 11/8/18."

He was hit in both feet by a shell when in a support Trench 200 yards from me at Harbonnieres (E. of Villers Bretonneux) at about 5 P.M., on August 8th 1918, and died at the Casualty Clearing Station a few days later. Captain Sail Officer Commanding, D. Coy, 58th Battn., A.I.F. who is now at Warminster, was with him in the trench and could give details , and Lieutenant Willis 58th Bn., A.I.F. D. Coy, (who is now in France) was also in the trench with him. His initials were E.C. He came from Melbourne and was the only Officer of his name in the Battalion. He was tall, mid colouring, and about 24; belonged to D. Company.

Informant:- Lieut. N.L. Mackinlay,
58th Battn., A. Coy,
3rd London General Hospital,
Wandsworth.

A.C. Campbell,
2/10/18.
London
31/10/18.

M.
Written to Willis
5.11.18

A.I.F. 58th Battn. CROCKFORD
// Lieut. E.C.

"Died of Wounds ~~23~~/8/18."

The Battn., attacked on August 8th in the Villers Bretonneux Sector. Lieut. Crockford was behind the attacking party when his foot was blown off by a shell. He was carried to the Dressing Station and he died a couple of days later. He was probably buried at Peronne. I was not near him at the time, but heard it from Pte. McConnell, who saw him hit. I know him personally and had a talk with him on August 28th.
— ? McConnell

Informant:- Thomas Plain Pte.2285 (Satisfactory.)
58th Bn., B. Coy, 6, Platn.
Bath War Hospital,
Ward V.3.

Home address. Bonnie Doon,
Lara
Victoria.

F.J. Kingsley.
9.10.18.
London
5.11.18.
J.E.A. Note:- Written Pte. McConnell 25.10.18. M.

Havre 21st November 1918

58 A.I.F. CROCKFORD, Lt. E.C.

D/W 11th Aug. 1918

He was killed by a bullet in the Villier Bretonneux Sector near Harbonnieres on or about the 11th August 1918. He was carried away. He would probably have been ~~accidentally~~ buried - We were advancing.

Informant: Pte H.S.Pemberton 2244,
58 A.I.F. C.Co.
74 Gen. Hospital Trouville

HJG

58th Battn.
A.I.F.

CROCKFORD.
E.C.(H) Lieut.

"Died of Wounds 11-8-18"

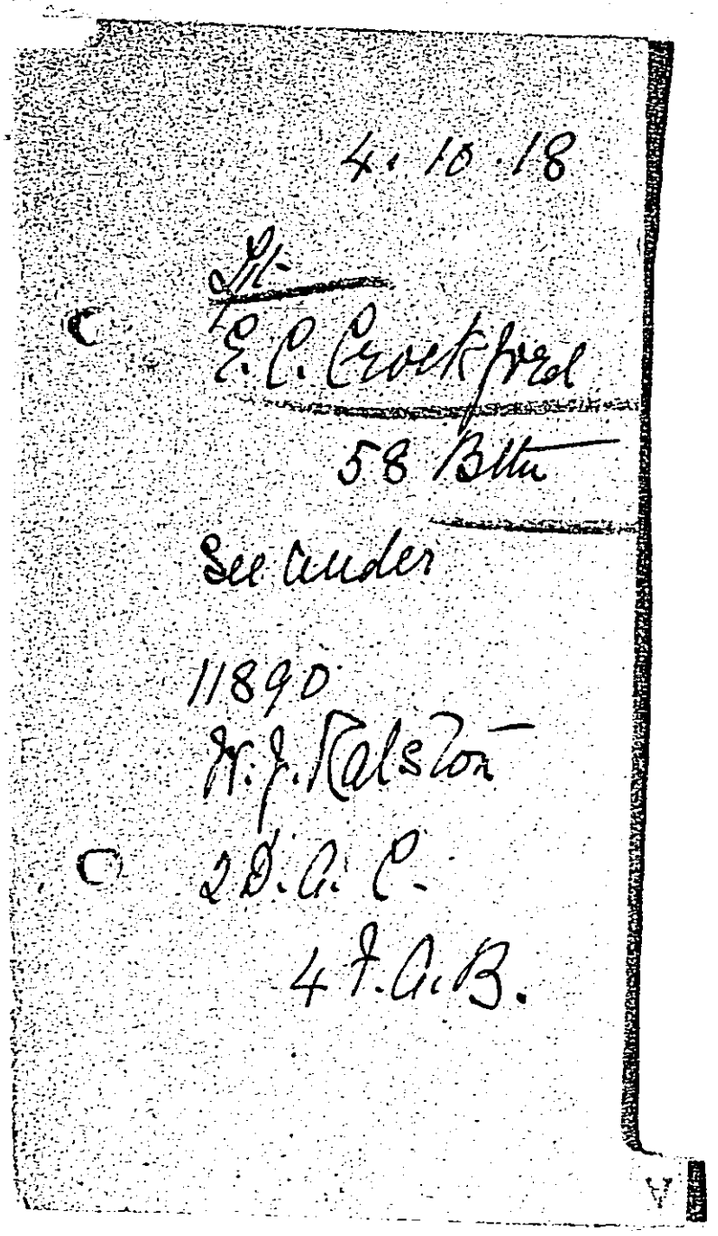
Re Lieut.E.C.Crockford. 58th Battalion. A.I.F.
Lieut Crockford was wounded at the conclusion of the d ay's heavy fighting on the 8th of Augustv1918. This you will remember was the day that the big push commenced at Amiens-Villers Bretonneux when the Australians and the Canadians gave the Bosche his first big knock back on the Somme. He and I and Capt Tait were the officers in "D" Company on that date, and Lieut Crockford with the Company had safely reached our objective nearly nine miles from the point we started from. He went from where the left platoon were digging in just behind a town called Harbonnieres to the right of the Company where Capt Tait was. Capt Tait's dug out was in a sunken road, one that had just been evacuated by the Germans. Mr Crockford didn't like it and went into the Sunken road, which was being shelled fairly heavily by the enemy. A shell exploded right in front of him, and shattered one of his legs below the knee. The Stretcher Bearers attended to him immediately, and he was taken off to our Regimental Aid Post where he was seen by Dr Voss our M.O. who gave him all the attention possible and sent him off ~~to~~ in an Ambulance to the Casualty Clearing Station which was at that time behind Villers Bretonneux. The Stretcher bearers told me when I saw them next day that the Doctor didn't hold out much hope of his recovery, the shock being very great, so that I M

was not greatly surprised, but greatly grieved, when I heard of his death. All his brother officers were very sorry to hear of his death. We lost many good officers and men that day, and in succeeding days.

Please convey to enquirers my own personal sympathy, and the sympathy of the Officers of 58th Battalion and men of "D" Company.

Letter from:- H.D.Willis. Lieut. "M.C"
A.I.F.FRANCE. 15-11-18.

London.
28-11-18. M.



4. 10. 18

Lt.
E. C. Crockford
58 Bttn

See under

11890
W. J. Ralston
2 D. A. C.
4 F. A. B.

ack. pc. 21.11.18 J.Q.D.

Lieut E.C. (H) Crockford 58th Batt. D. of W. 11.8.18 M2

(cd)

France

15. 11. 18.

Y.M.C.A. WITH THE AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

The Secretary.

Aust. Red Cross Society,

Re your Communication Concerning Lieut E.C. Crockford 58th Bn

Lieut Crockford was wounded at the Conclusion of the day's heavy fighting on the 8th of August 1918.

This you will remember was the day that the big push commenced at Amiens – Villiers Bretteneaux when the Australians and the Canadians gave the Bosche his first big knock back on the Somme.

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PTO.

Y.M.C.A. WITH THE AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

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The stretcher bearers attended

PTO

Y.M.C.A
WITH THE
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

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PTO

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Please convey to enquirers my own personal sympathy, and the sympathy of the Officers of 58th Bgn & men of D Coy.

I am.

Yours sincerely

H. D. Willis Lieut.

(M C).

9.9.D.